"For God and Country.

Cloister of the Colonies. Washington Memorial Chapel. Patriots' Hall. Tower and Library

"No spot on earth—not the plains of Marathon, nor the passes of Sempach, nor the place of the Bastile, nor the dykes of Holland, nor the moors of England—is so sacred in the history of the struggle for human liberty as Valley Forge."

—CYRUS TOWNSEND BRADY.

The Washington Chapel Chronicle

Valley Forge.

A MONTHLY RECORD OF RELIGION AND PATRIOTISM.

THE REV. W. HERBERT BURK, Editor and Publisher. The Defenders' Gate, Valley Forge.

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Dedication of the Commander-in-Chief's Door.

The Hand of God in the Election of Washington as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Forces.

(Concluded.)

Each one must picture for himself the scene in Independence Hall on the next day, when the young Virginia colonel was addressed by the President of Congress, John Hancock, who informed him officially of his election. Fortunately we are not left to imagine what he said. His words are for us as well as for those who in the hush of the council chamber listened with profound respect to the simple, honest words of one who by them consecrated himself and all that he had to the cause of American Independence.

"Mr. President.

Though I am truly sensible of the high honor done me in this appointment, yet I feel great distress from a consciousness that my abilities and military experience may not be equal to the extensive and important trust. However, as Congress desire it, I will enter upon the momentous duty and exert every power I possess in the service and for the support of the

glorious cause. I beg leave they will accept my most cordial thanks for this distinguished testimony of their approbation. But lest some unlucky event should happen unfavorable to my reputation, I beg it may be remembered by every gentleman in the room, that I this day declare with the utmost sincerity I do not think myself equal to the command I am honored with.

As to pay, sir, I beg leave to assure the Congress that as no pecuniary consideration could have tempted me to accept this arduous employment at the expense of my domestic ease and happiness, I do not wish to make any profit from it. I will keep an exact account of my expenses. These I doubt not they will discharge, and that is all I desire."

As he stands there in the solemn dignity of his noble manhood amid the men he was to lead and inspire, as you picture him in his brilliant uniform and with face illumined with the light of a true consecration to his God and to his country, let me read you another document, for I want you to know the man. It is a faded letter, the only one that Mrs. Washington saved for us from the many her husband wrote her. I think you will understand why she kept that letter from the flames, and understand, too, why the civilized world reveres the name of him who wrote it.

"Philadelphia, 18 June, 1775.

"My Dearest.

"I am now set down to write to you on a subject which fills me with inexpressible concern, and this concern is greatly aggravated and increased, when I reflect upon the uneasiness I know it will give you. It has been determined in Congress that the whole army raised for the defence of the American cause shall be put under my care, and that it is necessary for me to proceed immediately to Boston to take upon me the command of it.

"You may believe me, my dear Patsy, when I assure you, in the most solemn manner, that, so far from seeking this appointment, I have used my every endeavor in my power to avoid it, not only from my unwillingness to part with you and the family, but from a consciousness of its being a trust too great for my capacity, and that I should enjoy more real happiness in one month with you at home, than I have the most distant prospect of finding abroad, if my stay were to be seven times seven years. But as it has been a kind of destiny, that has thrown me upon this service, I shall hope that my undertaking it is designed to answer some good purpose. You might, and I suppose, did perceive, from the tenor of my letters, that I was apprehensive, I could not avoid this appointment, as I did not pretend to intimate when I should return. That was the case. It was utterly out of my power to refuse the appointment, without exposing my character to such censures, as would have reflected dishonour upon myself, and given pain to my friends. This, I am, sure could not, and ought not, to be pleasing to you, and must have lessened me considerably in my own esteem. I shall rely, therefore, confidently on that Providence, which has heretofore preserved and been bountiful to me, not doubting but that I shall return safe to you in the fall. I shall feel no pain from the toil or the danger of the campaign; my unhappiness will flow from the uneasiness I know you will feel from being left alone. I therefore beg that you will summon your whole fortitude, and pass your time as agreeably as possible. Nothing will give me such sincere satisfaction as to hear this, and to hear it from your own pen. My earnest and ardent desire is, that you would pursue any plan that is most likely to produce content, and a tolerable degree of tranquility; as it must add greatly to my uneasy feelings to, hear that you are dissatisfied or complaining at what I really could not avoid.

"As life is always uncertain, and common prudence dictates to every man the necessity of settling his temporal concerns, while it is in his power, and while the mind is calm and undisputed, I have

since I came to this place (for I had not time to do it before I left home) got Colonel Pendleton to draft a will for me, by the directions I gave him, which will I now enclose. The provision made for you in case of my death will, I hope, be agreeable.

"I shall add nothing more, as I have several letters to write, but to desire that you will remember me to your friends, and to assure you that I am, with the most unfeigned regard, my dear Patsy, your affectionate," etc.

Perhaps these messages are "too decorous
and severe,
Too self-respected in its griefs and joys,"
to fit the temper of this day. Yet we must recall the age in which he dwelt, and read beaween the lines if we are to feel the "force in that calm-cadenced phrase,

The habitual full-dress of his well-bred
mind,
That seems to pace the minuet's courtly
maze
And tell of ampler leisures, roomier length
of days.
His firm-based brain, to self so little kind
That no tumultuary blood could blind,
Formed to control men, not amaze,
Looms not like those that borrow height
of haze:
It was a world of statelier movement
then
Than this we fret in, he a denizen
Of that ideal Rome that made a man for
men."

Such was the man that the Continental Congress chose to lead the Continental forces. Such was the man that God raised up to be the deliverer of the American people. For I said yonder Door was a Creed. It is a confession of faith in the leadership of God.

There are two things which the historian needs to consider. One is the movement of men and nations, their thoughts their plans, their purposes. The other is the thought and plan of God. For he who ponders the course of history, whether of the individual or of the nation, will find there is enough "to teach us
There's a divinity that shapes our ends,
Rough-hew them how we will."

Nothing in American history shows this more fully than the event which we commemorate in this memorial. Washington was not chosen because he was preeminently the man for the place, his contemporaries being the judges. Even the delegates from Virginia were not united in his support. His election was nothing more nor less, as far as the members of the Congress were concerned, than an expedient. He had a reputation as a soldier, it is true, but so had others in the Colonies, and the events which followed showed how jealous each Colony was of the others.

The fact of the matter was simply this. Massachusetts had on its hands 16,000 hungry men who must be fed. In time they must be paid. Moreover Massachusetts could not hope to carry on the contest single-handed, and something must be done to rally the other Colonies to her support. The selection of a southerner would do much to secure the support of the southern colonies, of which Virginia was the richest and most influential. The election of Washington, disappointing as it was to others, was the price paid for the help that Massachusetts needed. No one who voted for him could foresee that of all men in the Colonies, or even in Europe, for that matter, he alone was the man for the hour and for the work.

This needs no demonstration. The testimony of his co-patriots, the judgment of later generations, all agree on this. He has been subjected to criticism, each move corefully weighed and considered, and approved and disapproved, but the result is only this: Washington was prepared selected and aided for the greatest work of the age.

Time will not permit me to recount his efforts, his failures and sucecsses. That is the story of the Revolution from Dorchester Heights to Yorktown. Our great

Republic is the result of the election of George Washington as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Forces, and so on the Door we have carved that all may read this inscription:

"In Gratitude to God for His Guidance in the Election of George Washington Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Forces this Door is given by the Colonial Dames of America, Chapter II, Philadelphia."

The Door will stand a memorial of that moment in our history when the petty politics of men, their antagonisms and their jealousies, their littlenesses and their narrownesses, were, over-ruled and set aside that God's own choice might be made manifest. Of the thousands and tens of thousands who pass this portal, many may only dimly see how

"when the great Virginian
Unsheathed the sword whose fatal flash
Shot union through the incoherent clash
Of our loose atoms, crystallizing them
Around a single will's unpliant stem,
And making purpose of emotions rash."

men of many minds, and cold and heat, and all of Nature's forces were uniting to work out the purpose of God. But for those who catch the vision, to those will come the glad "Amen" to yonder Door s thanksgiving that for us and for all the world Washington

"saw the visions of defeat, nor less
The incomputable perils of success;
The sacred past thrown by, an empty
rind;
The future, cloud-land, snare of prophets
blind;
The waste of war, the ignominy of
peace;
On either hand a sullen waste of woes,
Whose garnered lightnings none could
guess,
Piling its thunder-heads and muttering
"Cease!"
Yet drew not back his hand, but gravely
chose
The seeming-desperate task whence our
new nation rose."

The Stephens' Brass Quartette and the large choir under the leadership of Miss Mary M. Hibbs made the music an inspiring feature of the service.

Mrs. Thomas Balch received the guests at the close of the service. The parish house had been tastefully decorated for the occasion, and the time was all too short for those who were compelled to leave by the train.

The Commander-in-Chief's Door is made of heavy oak, deeply panelled. It opens out into the "Cloister of the Colonies," and so it bears the arms of the thirteen original states which elected Washington Commander-in-Chief. The seal of the Colonial Dames of America occupies the place of honor among these heraldic devices. The strap hinges of wrought iron are wonderfully beautiful. They are the work of Samuel Yellin. The lock is being made in France, and will be like the sample used, of brass hand-made and silver-plated. The Door was made by G. Gerald Evans.

The inscription is cut in the upper stiles of the Door, and is as follows:

THE INSCRIPTION
In Gratitude to God for His
Guidance in the Election
of
George Washington
Commander-in-Chief
of the
Continental Forces
this Door is given by
The Colonial Dames of America
Chapter II, Philadelphia.

The addition of this Door is an enrichment of the Chapel for which all true Americans will be grateful, for the Door is a work of art and it commemorates one of the greatest events in the history of the nation.

The first floor of Patriots' Hall is used as a Colonial Museum, containing among other relics the marquee or tent used by Washington as headquarters when in the field.

Miss Balch.

Inadvertently the following address of Miss Balch was omitted from the last number, in which it was to appear at its proper place in the program, at the point where the Commander-in-Chief's Door was presented. Her words will be read with sorrow, now, for on June 23d her earthly labors came to an end. Her illness at the time of the dedication was a great disappointment to her and to her friends, for she had set her heart on this memorial and had planned to make the day of the presentation a notable one. From her bed of illness she directed every detail of the preparation.

Hers was a spirit of real patriotism, and her enthusiasm was inspiring. To her the Washington Memorial Chapel made a strong appeal, and in it she placed two of the Pews of the Patriots, one to her great-great-grandfather, the Rev. Robert Blackwell, D. D., and the other to her great-grandfather, the Rev. Stephen Bloomer Balch, D. D.

MISS BALCH'S ADDRESS.

The Bishop Suffragan of Pennsylvania, members of the Colonial Dames of America, and Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pennsylvania has to her credit in the past notable achievements in peace, in war, in learning and in commerce.

At the western end of the State the great city of Pittsburgh now stands upon the site where Fort DuQuesne stood, which was captured in 1758 from the French by the expedition under General John Forbes, among whose officers were Colonel Henry Bouquet, Colonel Joseph Shippen and George Washington. The success of that expedition was one of the most important circumstances that insured the spread of the British colonies towards the west, and caused the English language to become the dominating tongue of North America.

Here at the eastern end of our Commonwealth, at Valley Forge, a still greater event occurred. For on this spot, chosen mainly by the military eyes of Anthony Wayne, our fathers held watch during the bleak winter of 1777-1778, along the banks of the Schuylkill. But it was due to the fortitude, the courage and the inspired common sense of George Washington that the army of the Revolution held together, and that the war of Independence was carried successfully through its darkest period.

To-day on behalf of the Colonial Dames of America, Chapter Two, Philadelphia, it is my privilege and pleasure, as chairman of the committee, to present to you this memorial door to the glory of God and in memory of the soldiers who, gathered from all the colonies here upon Pennsylvania ground, made our existence as a nation possible. And I herewith present to the Bishop Suffragan of Pennsylvania, the Rector and the Wardens of the Washington Memorial Chapel, this door to be dedicated in memory of the unanimous election on June 15, 1775, by the Second Continental Congress sitting in Philadelphia, of George Washington as Commander in Chief of the army of the colonies.

The Evacuation Days at Valley Forge.

The celebration of the Evacuation Days at Valley Forge was so important that we will not attempt to present the brief accounts which the lack of space would compel us to print in this issue The dedication of the New Jersey monument on the 18th and the unveiling of the New Jersey State Panel in the Roof of the Republic on the 19th form a part of the history of Valley Forge and deserve the extended notice which we hope to give them in our next issue.

Help Needed.

Your help is needed to extend the usefulness of the Chronicle. If every old subscriber will send in a renewal and add one more name to the list the influence of the Chronicle will be doubled. Twenty-five cents in stamps will carry a monthly message from the hills of Valley Forge to a friend who will be glad to receive it.

Washington Memorial Chapel,
Valley Forge, Pa.

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Mr. Edward H. Binns, Rector's Warden, Pittsburgh, Pa.

VESTRYMEN.

Mr. Edward H. Binns, Mr. Thomas H. Dobson, Gen. B. F. Fisher, Mr. Nathan B. Hughes, Mr. Leslie Jefferis, Mr. Frank Quigg, Mr. S. Col. Summerill, Mr. Clayland Stephens Walker, Mr. Charles Wells Walker.

Sundays.

10.45 A. M. Service and Sermon.
2.30 P. M. Sunday School and Bible Classes.
3.45 P. M. Service and Sermon.
Holy Communion, First Sunday.
The Parish House, King-of-Prussia:
9 A. M. Sunday School and Bible Classes.
7.30 P. M. Service and Sermon.
Saints' Days, 9.30 A. M. Holy Communion.

Calendar.

JULY.

17. 8 p. m. Teacher Training Class at Gulph Mills.
20. Ninth Sunday after Trinity.
24. 8 p. m. Teacher Training Class at Gulph Mills.
25. 9.30 a. m. Holy Communion.
27. Tenth Sunday after Trinity.
31. 8 p. m. Teacher Training Class at Gulph Mills.

AUGUST.

3. Eleventh Sunday after Trinity.
4. 8 p. m. Vestry Meeting.
6. 10 a. m. Service, sermon and Holy Communion.
2.30 p. m. Guild Meeting.
4.30 p. m. Service and sermon at Gulph Mills.
7.30 p. m. Service and sermon at King-of-Prussia.
8. 8 p. m. Teacher Training Class at Gulph Mills.
10. Twelfth Sunday after Trinity.

Gulph Mills Mission.

BAPTISMS.

June 29. Alfred Mosman.
July 4. Phillips Brooks Conrad.
July 4. Frank Conrad.
July 6. John Norman Black.
July 6. Violet Rosalie Black.

The Convocation of Norristown.

The June meeting of the Convocation of Norristown was held at Lansdale in Holy Trinity Church, the Rev. A. L. Urban, minister-in-charge. The meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Convocation, with which the program began, was addressed by Bishop Garland and Dean Burk, both of whom told of the new mission at Gulph Mills. The President, Miss Mary M. Hibbs, presided and made the report to the Convocation, announcing the appropriation of $25 to Gulf Mills. The proposition to change the name of the auxiliary to the "Convocational Aid" was acted upon favorably. This will come up for final action at the next meeting.

There was a very large attendance of delegates at the business meeting of the Convocation. In addition to the appropriations as made last year $500 was appropriated to the missions at King-of-Prussia and Gulf Mills. The question of increasing the parochial assessment was warmly discussed and finally refered to a committee. The following officers were elected: Secretary, the Rev. G. W. Barnes; Treasurer, Mr. John D. Newbold; Mr. William Drayton, Lay Delegate to the Board of Missions; and the Rev. J. Thompson Cole and Mr. W. H. Reeves, members of the Missionary Committee.

The Dean told of the progress made at Gulf Mills and the enthusiasm of the

workers. The missionary at Lansdale made a favorable report of his field, but the best report was the actual results which were seen in the number and zeal of the workers and the admirable condition of the plant.

Supper was served in the rectory garden, a veritable dreamland. The addresses were made by the Rev. G. Berkeley Griffith, the Rev. Nathaniel B. Groton, the Rev. Benjamin N. Bird and the Rev. Benj. S. Bert, expressive of the gratitude of the Convocation. The Dean paid a tribute to the skill of the gardener who brought to his task artistic ability and poetic spirit, and then made his garden bloom in the hearts of others through his book "The Vcice of the Garden."

The Rev. J. B. Halsey preached the sermon at the missionary service, a sermon full of profound thought and heart-searching truth. The Rev. A. L. Urban and his devoted family and parishioners were warmly congratulated on their good work and on the delightful hours which they had given to the Convocation.

On Wednesday, June 25, the Rev. and Mrs. W. Herbert Burk were the guests of the Huguenot Society of New Rochelle, N. Y., at a luncheon given in celebration of the 225th anniversary of the founding of the town, and in the afternoon they were the guests of Huguenot Chapter, Daughters of the Revolution, at the unveiling of a statue of Governor Jacob Leister, founder of New Rochelle. Miss Katharine J. Clinton Carville, Regent, and other members of the Chapter, deserve great credit for the efforts that resulted in the creation of the work of art by Solon H. Borglum, the sculptor, and for a most delightful program. Among the speakers was Mrs. Clarence L. Bleakley, President General of the Daughters of the Revolution, who made such a happy speech at Valley Forge when the Daughters held their service at the Chapel.

The Men of Valley Forge.

Allen, Diarca: "Diarca Allen, of Mansfield, Conn., in 1777 enlisted in the Continental army; was at Valley Forge, Battle of Mommouth, and in this engagement was one of the company sent out by General Washington to open the battle; served until April, 1780, when he was honorably discharged. (From the written statement of Diarca Allen.)"

Descendant, Edward Allen Swian, great-grandson.

(Manual of the Rhode Island Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, 1899, p. 43.)

—

Annable, Edward: "Edward Annable was born in Barnstable, Mass., June 22, 1753; died in Marcellus, N. Y., June 10, 1836; one of the most noted men of Ashfield, Mass., in his day; enlisted in 1775, and served throughout the war without furlough; participated in battles of Bunker Hill, Brandywine, Monmouth and Stony Point; passed the famous winter of 1777-78, at Valley Forge, and one of Andre's guards at his execution. His father was so pronounced a Tory that at the time of his enlistment he said he hoped his son would never come back." (Register of the Empire State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, 1899, p. 366.)

Among his descendants is to be noted James E. Seymour, of New York city, who was born at Auburn, N. Y., April 20, 1846. "Member of Colonial Club. Son of James Seymour and Eliza Wheaton; grandson of Lucius Wheaton and Mehitable Annable; great-grandson of Edward Annable and Jemima Smith, gt-2-grandson of Samuel Annable, Jr., and Desire Dimmick; gt-3-grandson of Samuel Annable and Mehitable Allyn; gt-4-grandson of Anthony Annable and Ann Clark. (Ditto, p. 296.)

"Pleasant Places," the Philadelphia and Reading Railway's booklet of summer resorts, has this to say of the Chapel and Museum:

Is It a Forgery?

In our April number we printed a letter from Washington to Captain Littell owned by the Rev. John S. Littell, D. D.

The editor has received a letter from J. P. Hale Jenkins, Esq., a member of the Valley Forge Park Commission, in which he says:

"I received No. 1 of Volume 6, of the Washington Chapel Chronicle and find in it the memoranda with reference to a Valley Forge Order dated March 10, 1778. I want to call your attention to the fact that this has been decided to be a forgery. At that time there was no Norristown or Norristown Road. It is, therefore, as it occurs to me, wise for you to make a note of this, after having verified the statement which is here made."

Norristown celebrated the centennial of its founding in 1912. The "Road as far as the King-of-Prussia tavern" was the Gulph Road, and is still so called. The editor knows of no early use of the name "Norristown Road." Perhaps Dr. Littell can give us some history of the document.

The Daughters of the American Revolution at Valley Forge.

The Philadelphia Chapter, D. A. R., held its annual entertainment on Wednesday, May 28, which took the form of "A Day at Valley Forge." The day was anything but inviting, but a large number of the members of the Chapter and their guests braved the storm. At the Valley Forge station they were met by coaches and escorted by Mr. Samuel Hartranft and Mr. Albert Guillerman to the pavilion in the State grove. Here the caterers had a bountiful luncheon ready, and at its close the Rev. Mr. Burk, one of the guests, was asked to speak on "Valley Forge." In his address he told of the past, the present and the future, and said that while the State and patriotic societies, notably the Daughters of the Revolution, were doing so much the Daughters of the American Revolution had done very little, the notable exceptions being the Valley Forge Chapter, which had given a marker in the Park, and Delaware County Chapter, which had given the John Morton Pew in the Chapel, and the Quaker City Chapter, which had a fund for a window in memory of Mrs. Kendrick.

Mr. Burk said some of the members of this Chapter have expressed their regret at this state of affairs, and their desire to give a window in the Chapel, and he hoped the Chapter would decide upon this or some other memorial.

Mrs. W. Hinckle South at once moved that the Chapter give a window to cost $2000 and the resolution was unanimously adopted. The work of raising the money was began at once, and before the Chapter left for a drive over the boulevard and a visit to the Chapel a part of the fund was in the hands of the treasurer.

Mr. Burk expressed his great delight at the action of the Chapter, and at the enthusiastic manner in which the proposition had been received.

At the Chapel Mrs. Burk received the guests, but unfortunately little time was left to see the beautiful memorials and the treasures of the Museum, as so much time had been taken in the drive.

The Delaware Bay in the Cloister of the Colonies, presented by Mr. George A. Elliott, President of the Delaware Society, Sons of the American Revolution, was dedicated June 25, by the Rt. Rev. Philip M. Rhinelander, D. D. The New York Bay, with its open air pulpit, is now under construction.

The walls of the nave have been raised ten feet, and while this added a debt to the burden of the parish the renewed interest and increased gifts show the wisdom of the undertaking.

The most hopeful sign for the future of this work is the organization of a committee of representative laymen of the Diocese under Bishop Garland for the completion of the chapel.